



REPORT OF OSCE PA TREASURER
JOHAN BÜSER
WINTER MEETING



20 February
2026

The OSCE PA Winter meeting takes place in a tumultuous time for the OSCE region. As I have stressed in my previous reports to the Assembly, the difficulties also extend to the financial side of our organisation.

Since our last meeting in Istanbul, I have received the report of the external auditor for the 2024-2025 financial year. In the report, the auditor concludes that continued non-payments of the Russian Federation have gradually depleted the financial reserves and that continued budgetary deficit would have a serious impact on our organisation. The auditor stresses that:

“...if the non-payment persists without corrective measures, the reserves will continue to diminish, potentially dropping below the critical threshold by 2027-2028. This situation poses increased operational liquidity risks and may impact the Organisation’s ability to finance statutory activities and missions.”¹

In my previous reports in the capacity as Treasurer of OSCE PA, I have noted these risks. In Istanbul, I informed the Standing Committee that the Russian Federation’s unpaid contributions amount to 1 million euros, or ¼ of the total OSCE PA budget². In relation to this, it is also relevant to note that there was a lack of consensus for the approval of an increase of the budget during the Annual Session in Porto which would have compensated for the non-payments.

Taken together, the auditor’s conclusion underlines the need for substantial budgetary reform. Expenses need to be adapted to projected income, or else our organisation runs the risk of not being able to finance statutory activities in the near future.

1. Audit reporting on the annual report 2024/2025, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, p.3
2. Total amount of the missing contributions of the Russian Federation is 1 023 208 EUR.

As the Treasurer, being responsible for the financial administration of the Assembly together with the Secretary General, **it is my duty to inform the Standing Committee about the financial position of the organisation, including the fact that the budgetary reserves currently are significantly lower than the level required by the OSCE PA Financial Rules and Regulations.** The budgetary reserve, which shall be 100 % of the budget of a financial year, **is currently negative with 793 000 EUR.** There is also an emergency reserve which shall be in the amount of 50 %, **which currently is 2 187 000 EUR.**

Budget considerations

Against this background, I have asked the Secretary General to develop an **action plan which outlines measures to be taken to ensure that expenses align with the expected yearly income.** This strategy will guide our financial administration during the current financial year, as well as the next budget proposal to be presented for the Annual Session in Hague.

Considering that OSCE PA member states have not agreed to increase the budget to counter the loss of the financial contribution of the Russian Federation, **the only viable way forward is to restructure and reduce expenses in the budget.** It is a necessary step to safeguard the financing and proper functioning of the Assembly for the future.

I have asked the Secretary General to **prioritize the activities of the Assembly, including elections observation missions, statutory meetings and other political initiatives taken by the Standing Committee** in the drafting of the action plan. Further discussions about these measures will be held within the Bureau in Copenhagen in April and during the Annual Session in Hague.

Financial Situation in the OSCE executive structures

The challenges within the OSCE PA take place within the broader context of the OSCE, that remains under significant strain, financially as well as politically.

The OSCE has operated without an adopted Unified Budget since 1 January 2022, relying instead on provisional mechanisms which have contributed to underfunding and management constraints at a time of high inflationary pressure. OSCE reporting on outstanding assessed contributions indicates that arrears remain substantial as of 31 December 2025.³

As the challenging financial situation deteriorates, certain support services that have traditionally been provided for the OSCE PA within existing arrangements will be scaled back, which would shift additional costs to the Assembly and contribute to upward pressure on the OSCE PA budget, particularly in areas such as meeting servicing and language support in Vienna and election observation. **These considerations provide further grounds for the OSCE PA to adapt to the new budgetary realities.**

Acknowledgment of Extra-Budgetary Contributions and Hosting Commitments

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the delegations that have made extra-budgetary contributions, which are essential for supporting specific projects, events, and initiatives that align with the Assembly's goals.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge:

- Denmark for hosting the Secretariat Headquarters in Copenhagen.

3. As of 31.12.2025, the outstanding amount was as high as 23,933,628 EUR.

- Austria for continued support of the Vienna Office.
- Luxembourg for significant extra-budgetary support to activities related to Ukraine, South East Europe, and Eastern Europe.
- Germany for continued support through Leinsweiler funding and seconded personnel.
- Italy for continued support through secondments and other assistance.
- Turkiye for support in hosting the Autumn Meeting in Istanbul.
- Switzerland: For its extra-budgetary contribution supporting and strengthening the Assembly's operational capacity and activities.
- Portugal for hosting the 2025 Annual Session in Porto

I also wish to recognize those delegations that have voluntarily increased their contributions, demonstrating solidarity and shared responsibility in a challenging financial environment.

Statutory Meetings

The Assembly's statutory meetings are as follows:

- Bureau Meeting - Copenhagen (27 April 2026)
- Annual Session - The Hague (4-8 July 2026)
- Autumn Meeting - Andorra (7-9 October 2026)
- Bureau Meeting (Lugano): 3 December 2026
- Winter Meeting 2027 February
- Annual Session 2027 - **A host has not yet been confirmed. Any delegation wishing to host the Annual Session in 2027 is encouraged to notify the OSCE PA International Secretariat at the earliest opportunity, as long-term planning for statutory meetings helps to contain costs and improve cost efficiency.**

I remain grateful to participating States for their continued support, and I look forward to working with the Standing Committee and the Bureau as we prepare the next budget cycle.

Annexes:

1. [OSCE PA Budget 34th Financial Year: 1 October 2025– 30 September 2026](#)
2. [OSCE PA List of Contributions 2025 / 2026](#)
3. [Audit Report 2024-2025](#)
4. [Annual Report 2024-2025](#)

Treasurer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Johan Büser
Vienna, 20 February 2026

